

TROPICAL STORM HELEN (08W)

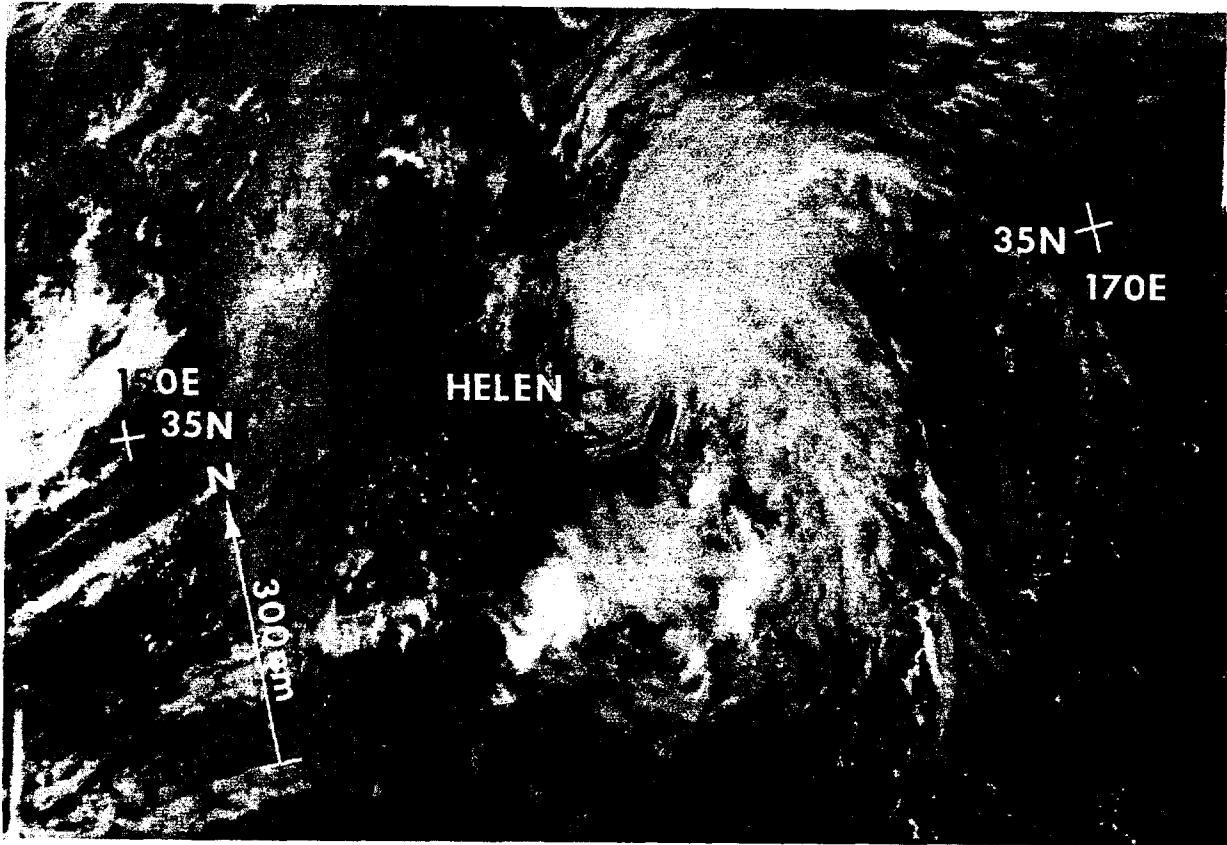


Figure 3-08-1. As Helen weakens, the low-level cloudiness defining its circulation center appears to the south-southwest of the central cloud mass (271401Z July NOAA visual imagery).

The fourth of five significant tropical cyclones to develop in July, Helen intensified from a Tropical Upper Tropospheric Trough (TUTT)-induced low-level circulation. The initial Significant Tropical Weather Advisory issued at 250600Z was reissued at 251900Z to include mention of a persistent area of deep convection. At 252300Z, JTWC issued a Tropical Cyclone Formation Alert when the system showed a steady increase in low-level cloud organization. The first warning followed quickly at 260000Z, based on visual satellite observations of curved low-level cloud lines associated with this midlevel tropical cyclone and satellite Dvorak intensity estimates of 25 kt (13 m/sec). Helen continued to intensify as it slowly tracked to the north and reached its peak intensity of 45 kt (23 m/sec) at 260600Z. The tropical storm began to weaken as it gained latitude and moved into a region of cooler sea-surface temperatures. The final warning on this system was issued at 280000Z when satellite imagery indicated that Helen no longer maintained any persistent central convection.